

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

A NEW TEAL FROM THE ANDAMAN ISLANDS.

BY J. H. FLEMING.

While cataloguing a number of birds from the Andaman Islands, collected in 1905, by Mr. B. B. Osmaston, and now in my collection, I noticed that in a series of twelve Andaman Teal, only five agreed with the description and plate of *Nettion albigularis* (= *Polionetta albigularis*) in Vol. 27 of the Catalogue of Birds. Six from North Reef Island (to the westward of North Andaman), and one from Middle Andaman differ sufficiently from the five from South Andaman to be described as a new subspecies, which may be known as—

***Polionetta albigularis leucopareus* subsp. nov.**

Cotypes from North Reef Island, Andaman Islands, ♂ and ♀, collected by B. B. Osmaston, December 25, 1905. Fleming Coll. Nos. 19,064 (♂), and 19,069 (♀).

Characters.—Similar to *P. albigularis albigularis* (Hume), but averaging larger, with a great deal of white on head and neck; margins of body feathers cinnamon brown and better defined, producing strongly defined spots, especially on the sides of the breast.

♂. Pileum, except frontal apex, very dark brown, this color descending the sides of the face behind the auricular region, and partially surrounding it below; sides of upper neck light brown. Frontal apex and whole face, including eyebrows and auricular region, pure white, this color extending over the throat and lower neck, and continuing in a wide collar around the hind neck.

♀. Entire pileum dark brown becoming lighter on the sides of the head and neck, confining the white collar to the hind neck, and reaching forward below the auricular region. Auricular region, eyebrows, front of face, throat and lower neck as in the male.

TABLE OF MEASUREMENTS.
(Measurements in inches.)

Flem- ing Col. No.	Sex.		Date.		Wing.	Tail.	Tarsus.	Culmen.
<i>Polionetta albigularis leuco- pareus.</i>								
19,065	male	ad.	Dec. 25, 1905	North Reef Island, Andamans	8.20	3.23	1.45	1.35
*19,064	"	"	" " "	" " " "	8.00	3.16	1.42	1.48
19,066	"	"	" " "	" " " "	8.00	3.12	1.40	1.43
19,067	"	"	" " "	" " " "	7.42	3.03	1.45	1.49
19,068	"	"	" " "	" " " "	7.78	2.83	1.34	1.42
*19,069	female	"	" " "	" " " "	7.91	2.88	1.40	1.50
19,075	(male)	"	Jan. — "	North Andaman.	7.80	2.78	1.40	1.52
<i>Polionetta albigularis albi- gularis.</i>								
19,073	male	ad.	Dec. 10, 1905	Port Blair, South Andaman	7.60	2.80	1.32	1.47
19,071	"	"	" " "	" " " "	7.38	2.88	1.37	1.37
19,072	female	"	" " "	" " " "	7.70	2.57	1.40	1.37
19,070	"	"	" " "	" " " "	7.48	2.61	1.31	1.35
19,071	"	juv.	Oct. 10 "	Andamans	7.20	2.83	1.25	1.25

* Types.

† All primaries in quill.

‡ First primary in quill.

Remarks.—I am indebted to Dr. L. B. Bishop, of New Haven, Conn., and Mr. W. R. Ogilvie-Grant for comparing two of my North Reef Island birds (the types) with the series of Andaman Teal in the British Museum and the types of *P. albigularis*, and both gentlemen agree that my form is at least a good sub-species. I have some hesitation in including the single bird from North Andaman in the new form; it is intermediate in coloring and is probably the connecting link between the forms.

The white on the frontal apex varies, being reduced to a line in that of the Reef Island birds, and one (19,065) has a great deal of white on the crown, 19,066 has a little, and 19,064 a small spot.